

Collectors are calling for more change

By Roger Boye

SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Kee the cent. Use more color on "greenbacks." Add a dollar coin and abolish the \$1 bill.

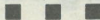
So said the majority of collectors who completed a survey this summer for the American Numismatic Association, the nation's largest organization of coin buffs.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents thought Uncle Sam should retain the cent and half dollar, while just over half said a coin should replace the \$1 bill.

Also, the majority wanted new designs on at least one side of each circulating coin, cent through half dollar.

Results of the survey prompted the ANA Board of Governors to endorse a bill in Congress that calls for a gold-colored dollar coin to replace the \$1 Federal Reserve note.

About 7 percent of the ANA's 28,000 members filled out the mail-in questionnaire, published in the June issue of the association's monthly magazine.



Hobby newspaper Coin World

is accusing Uncle Sam of price gouging in a national sale of silver medals honoring Benjamin Franklin and firefighters.

Each proof medal costs \$36 and an uncirculated specimen, \$32. Those prices include a \$15 surcharge to be shared by seven organizations.

"For collectors, the Franklin medal is a clear example of misuse of U.S. Mint products as a fund-raising vehicle for special-interest groups," wrote Coin World editor Beth Deisher.

Each medal contains one troy ounce of silver, worth about \$5 at current metal prices.